

## HOMELESSNESS

(801)

**PARTICIPANT TYPE.....ALL**  
**HIGH RISK.....NO**

### RISK DESCRIPTION:

A woman, infant or child who lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence; or whose primary nighttime residence is:

- A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter (including a welfare hotel, a congregate shelter, or a shelter for victims of domestic violence) designed to provide temporary living accommodations;
- An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized;
- A temporary accommodation of not more than 365 days in the residence of another individual; or
- A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

### ASK ABOUT:

- Food preparation and food storage equipment
- Access to safe and adequate drinking water
- Access to ongoing health care and barriers to obtaining care
- Food security and access to foods other than WIC foods
- Transportation barriers for accessing food resources and health care

### NUTRITION COUNSELING/EDUCATION TOPICS:

- Review food safety measures and practices relevant to their accommodations and prescribed WIC food packages.
- Review age-appropriate feeding guidelines and lifecycle-appropriate nutrition recommendations.
- Discuss meals and snacks that require minimal or no cooking facilities.
- Suggest non-traditional foods or meal plans in order to use available foods and facilities.
- Provide information and tips about buying low-cost foods from the food groups that are typically consumed in limited quantities (i.e., fruits, vegetables and grains). Discuss how to safely store these foods.
- Tell the parent/caregiver that WIC foods must be made available for their personal use in the homeless facility; WIC foods cannot be used in communal feeding.

<b>POSSIBLE REFERRALS:</b>
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- If food storage or preparation options are limited, tailor the food package to maintain quality and safety of the WIC foods.
- If the participant does not have an ongoing source of health care, refer to primary care providers in the community or the local public health department.
- If food insecurity is a concern, refer to other community resources such as food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens, and SNAP (Food Stamps).
- If transportation is needed to access food resources and health care, refer to community programs that provide assistance with transportation.